

DESIGN RIGHT



Winner! Henderson, Nevada

While Henderson, NV, has long focused on developing the city's roadway bicycle network, participation in the Mayors' Challenge prompted a shift to a more innovative approach to increase comfort and safety for cyclists as well as pedestrians.

Demonstrated Successes

Revised Engineering and Design Review Processes Ensure Consideration of Opportunities for Adding Bicycle Facilities

Historically, Henderson's approach to bicycle facilities consisted of striping 5-foot wide bike lanes on 4-lane roadways and providing shared 14-foot wide outside lanes on 6-lane roadways. In response to the Mayors' Challenge, Henderson identified opportunities to shift to providing separated bike lanes on several projects to increase the comfort level of bicyclists and pedestrians. Since the start of the Challenge, more than 21 miles of separated bike lanes have either been installed or are currently under construction. In addition, the city has recommended separated bicycle lanes for roadway rehabilitation projects. City staff

developed a standard separated bicycle lane design based on National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) guidelines.

In Henderson, design projects are now reviewed jointly with engineering design and traffic engineering to identify opportunities to include elements to improve safety for pedestrian and bicyclists, identify existing barriers, and use context sensitive designs. All projects (i.e., new design and pavement rehabilitation) are compared to the master bike and trail plan for opportunities to complete the planned network.

The city also reevaluated a planned rehabilitation project designed as a 6-lane road that would connect commercial properties with residential areas, schools, and sports fields. This proposed road crosses Interstate-515, a connectivity barrier for the community. Based upon engineering



Bicyclists ride on the separated raised bike lane.



evaluation of the rehabilitation project, the city decided that it would be appropriate to use a road diet on this facility, and the project was redesigned and constructed as a 4-lane facility with a raised mile-long, 10-foot wide separated bike lane. This separated bike lane was the first of its kind in Henderson.

Added and Improved Bicycle Lanes Produce Immediate, Tangible Benefits for Cyclists and Pedestrians

Working in close-collaboration with other City engineers and planners, these projects have:

- Added striped separated bike lanes to several projects;
- Increased comfort and safety for cyclists and pedestrians;
- Created facilities that accommodate a larger number and variety of cyclists, particularly those who may not be comfortable riding in traditional striped bike lanes or extra wide shared lanes; and
- Provided greater connectivity in the Henderson bicycle network.

Based upon these improvements and other efforts in education, planning, and advocacy, the League of American Bicyclists recognized Henderson as a silver award level Bicycle Friendly Community in November 2015—the first community in Nevada to receive this recognition.

Next Steps

City staff are working with the public to update Henderson’s comprehensive plan. Within this plan is a master streets and highway document that identifies bicycle and trail facilities for future construction. As part of this process, they are considering internal changes like including separated bicycle lanes on all roads with four lanes or more and expanding sidewalks up to 10-feet in width for pedestrians.

“In an effort to make our community safer and more accessible to bicyclists and pedestrians of all ages and abilities, we have made important changes to the way we approach the engineering design of bicycle lanes, including identifying opportunities to include Complete Streets elements whenever practical,” said Mayor Andy Hafen.

“The changes we have implemented result in tangible benefits for our community, including improvements that enhance the comfort and safety of bicyclists and pedestrians. It has also helped the City of Henderson to become a silver award level Bicycle Friendly Community—the first in Nevada to achieve this recognition.”

For more information about the Mayors’ Challenge results and award winners see:
www.transportation.gov/mayors-challenge/awards-and-results